Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* What orders have been passed thereon please?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* The explanation has been accepted.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether the explanation was not called for two Christian employees observing Christmas.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* There was an Arayan also.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* My question is this. Whether the Superintendent of Ayurveda did not call for explanation for the sin of two Christian employees, one a compounder and another an attender, observing the Christmas holiday, an all important day for Christians.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* Either your question is not clear to me or I was not able to understand it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* My question is whether the explanation was not as a matter of fact called for consequent upon two Christian employees observing Christmas as a holiday.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* The explanation was called for because the shop was closed.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Why did he close the shop? Is it not for the reason that two of the persons who are necessary for him to function as Vydian in-charge were Christians?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. There were three. One of them was absent and two happened to be Christians. He had no other subordinates and he thought be could not usefully function on that day.

WIVES OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AND ELECTIONS

515. **Mr. P. K. Paul** *(Chalakkudi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Government have noted the article in the "Gomathi" in its issue of 15th January 1946, under the title "wife penalised for her husband's folly?" by Mrs. Jane Joseph;

(*b*) why is a difference shown regarding the right for candidate for Legislative Council Election between a woman who is the wife of a Government servant and the man who is the husband of a Government servant?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) There are not many women in the higher ranks of Government service and therefore there has been no need to consider this suggestion.

Mr. P. K. Paul *(Chalakkudi):* May I know, Sir, the number of women in the higher ranks of Government service?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* There are not many. There are a few in the Education Department and a few in the Medical Department.

Mr. P. A. Muhammed Ashrof *(Cranganur):* Is it the position of the Government that the husbands of women who are employed in the higher category are not entitled to stand for election?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Government never said that.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Is this order based on the assumption that the wives of Government servants are more amenable to influence than Government servants?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* As likely as not.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Is it not right to presume that the direction of the working of the influence is the other way round in many cases?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Government do not deny it. They only say that in the practical administration in this State that problem does not arise now for consideration.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* The Hon'ble Chief Secretary to the Government says that there is no need for reconsidering this order because there are not many women in the higher ranks of Government service. May I make a humble suggestion—that all the Government servants should investigate the possibility of taking in more wives than they actually possess now?

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